

# Washington State Patrol Media Advisory

*Chief John R. Batiste*



## Office of the State Fire Marshal

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**June 26, 2006**

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### **Combining Law Enforcement and Safety Education To Reduce Fireworks Related Emergency Responses**

- What:** A press conference highlighting:
- Award presentations to three communities with successful combined enforcement/education campaigns.
  - Safety when using consumer fireworks with a demonstration of safe practices by lighting some large fountains.
  - Illegal Explosive Devices (IED) with a demonstration of the damage IED's can cause using a manikin and some illegal explosives. Please bring goggles for eye protection.
- Who:**
- Jim Schneider, Fire Chief, City of Kent Fire Department
  - Mike Matlick, Acting State Fire Marshal , Washington State Patrol
  - Jerry Farley, Fireworks Industry
  - Eugene Staebell, Supervisory Investigator, Consumer Product Safety Commission
  - Brennan Phillips, Explosive Enforcement Officer, Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
- When:** June 27, 2006, 10:00 a.m.
- Where:** Kent Commons -- Sports Field  
525 Fourth Ave N.  
Kent, WA 98032
- Why:** Retail fireworks stands open across the state on June 28. In 2001 through 2005 there were over 4,000 fireworks related emergency incidents reported to the State Fire Marshal. Nearly 50% of the injuries reported were to children under the age of 14. Fireworks should be stored in a secured location out of sight and reach of children.

Don't take any chances, be sure the fireworks you purchase are legal to possess and discharge. Know the dates and times fireworks are allowed in your community. Stay away from high powered illegal explosive devices such as M80's and M100's. The damage they cause can be devastating and life altering.